August 1988. Government of West Bengal have sent a composite proposal for a study of metropolitan transport in Calcutta including transways, ferry services, mono rail etc.

(b) The proposal includes study of assessment of the traffic demand; identification of optimum vehicle population projection of future transport planning needs extension of metro railway, completion of circular railway projects; modernisation of tramway; modernisation and upgradation of the existing ferry services; improvement of infrastructural facilities; comprehensive planning and preparation of feasibility studies for development of ferry services.

(c) The Ministry of Finance has been requested to identify a suitable donor country to take up the proposed composite study as it *inter-alia*; involves the upgradation of the existing indigenous technologies in this field.

Modernisation of Employment Exchanges

1279. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that functioning of the Employment Exchanges have been modernised with a view to providing more efficient services to the job seekers as well as employers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) with a view to modernising operations at Employment Exchanges and providing more efficient and objective services to the jobseekers as well as employers, the Central Government introduced from 1986-87 a Centrally sponsored schemes on computerisation of Employment Exchanges. Under the scheme, financial assistance on matching basis was provided to States for computerisation of Employment Exchanges having a Live Register of one lakh or more registrants (either individually or as combined group of exchanges) subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh per exchange or 50 percent of the actual cost of computer system, whichever is less.

From 1988-89, the ceiling of Central assistance has been raised to Rs. 2 lakhs per exchange or 50 per cent of the actual cost of the computer system, whichever is less.

During this period (1986—89) Central assistance was provided for computerisation of 38 large Employment Exchanges of group of Employment Exchanges. In addition, some of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations had taken steps to computerise some of the Employment Exchanges on their own.

The National Informatics Centre (Planning Commission) have developed a common softwere package for computerisation of Employment Exchanges for adoption throughout the country.

Funds to Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development

1280 SHR PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology has been releasing funds to various Voluntary Agencies during the last five years;